



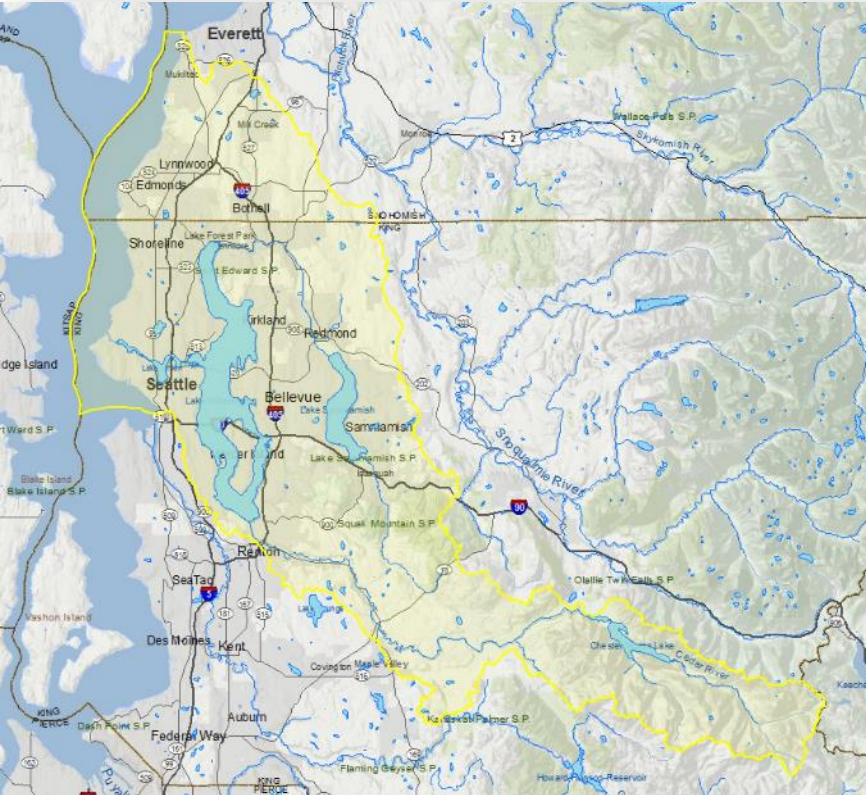
Geography of the Cedar-Sammamish Watershed

The Cedar-Sammamish Watershed Geography



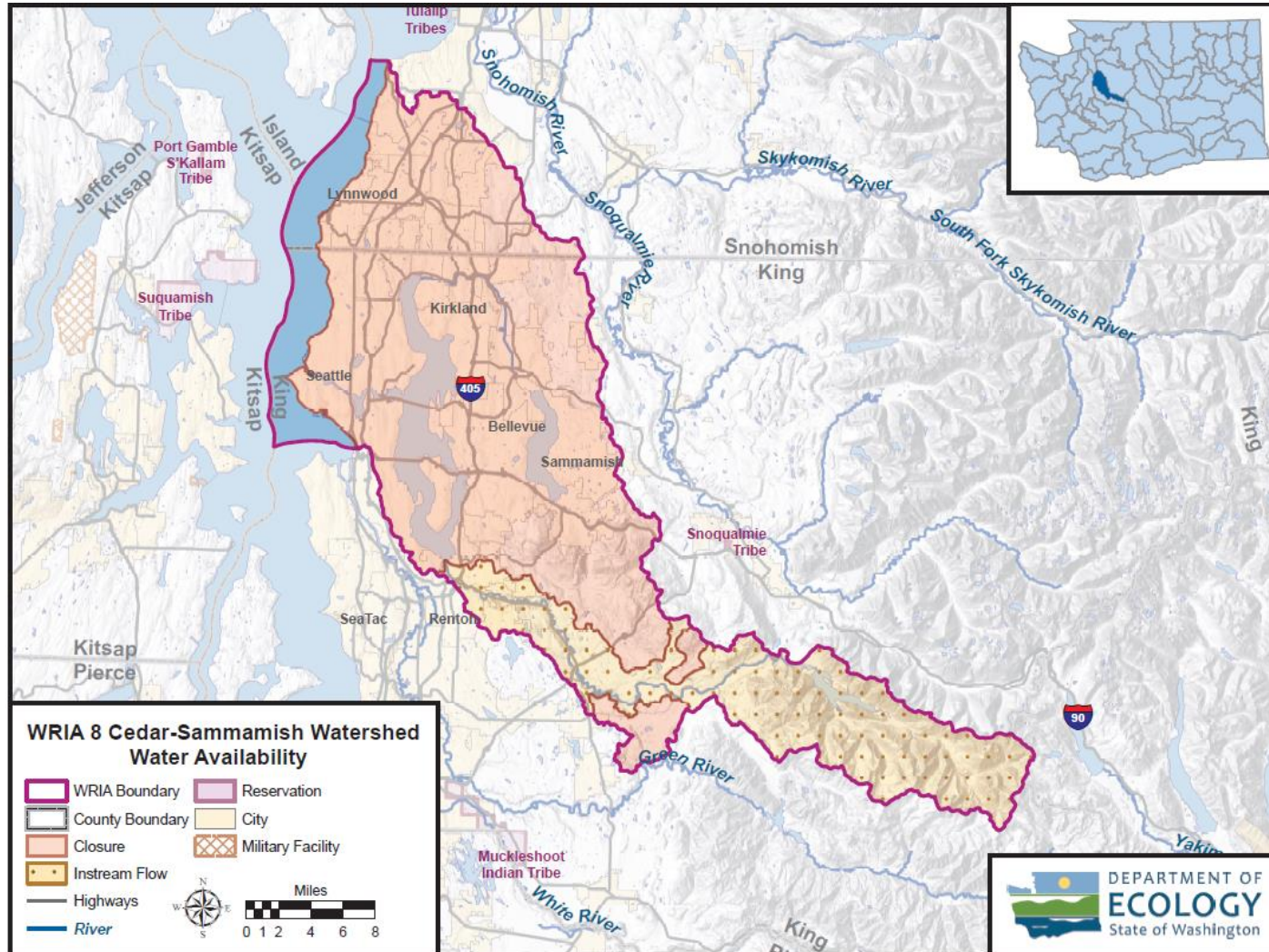
- About 698 square miles in area.
- Elevation ranges from sea level to ~5500 feet.
- Bounded by Puget Sound on the west and Cascade mountains on the east.
- Water flows out to the Puget Sound through the Ballard Locks, with a few exceptions.

The Cedar-Sammamish Watershed Water Sources



- Includes the Cedar River, which originates in the Cascade Mountains; the Sammamish River, which connects Lake Washington and Lake Sammamish; smaller creeks such as Swamp, Bear, Evans and North creeks; and marine nearshore and sub-basins that drain directly to Puget Sound.
- Cedar River is the source of 70% of the drinking water for the greater Seattle area.
- Annual streamflow is largely driven by snowpack melt and annual rainfall.
- Average annual precipitation is 30-35 inches in coastal areas to 120 inches in the mountains.
 - Most of this precipitation arrives during the winter months when overall water demands are the lowest.
 - During the summer, the snowpack is gone and there is little rain, and naturally low stream flows are dependent on groundwater inflow.
 - At the same time the demand for water for human uses, including irrigation are at the yearly maximum.
- ***Groundwater and surface water are least available when water demands are the highest.***

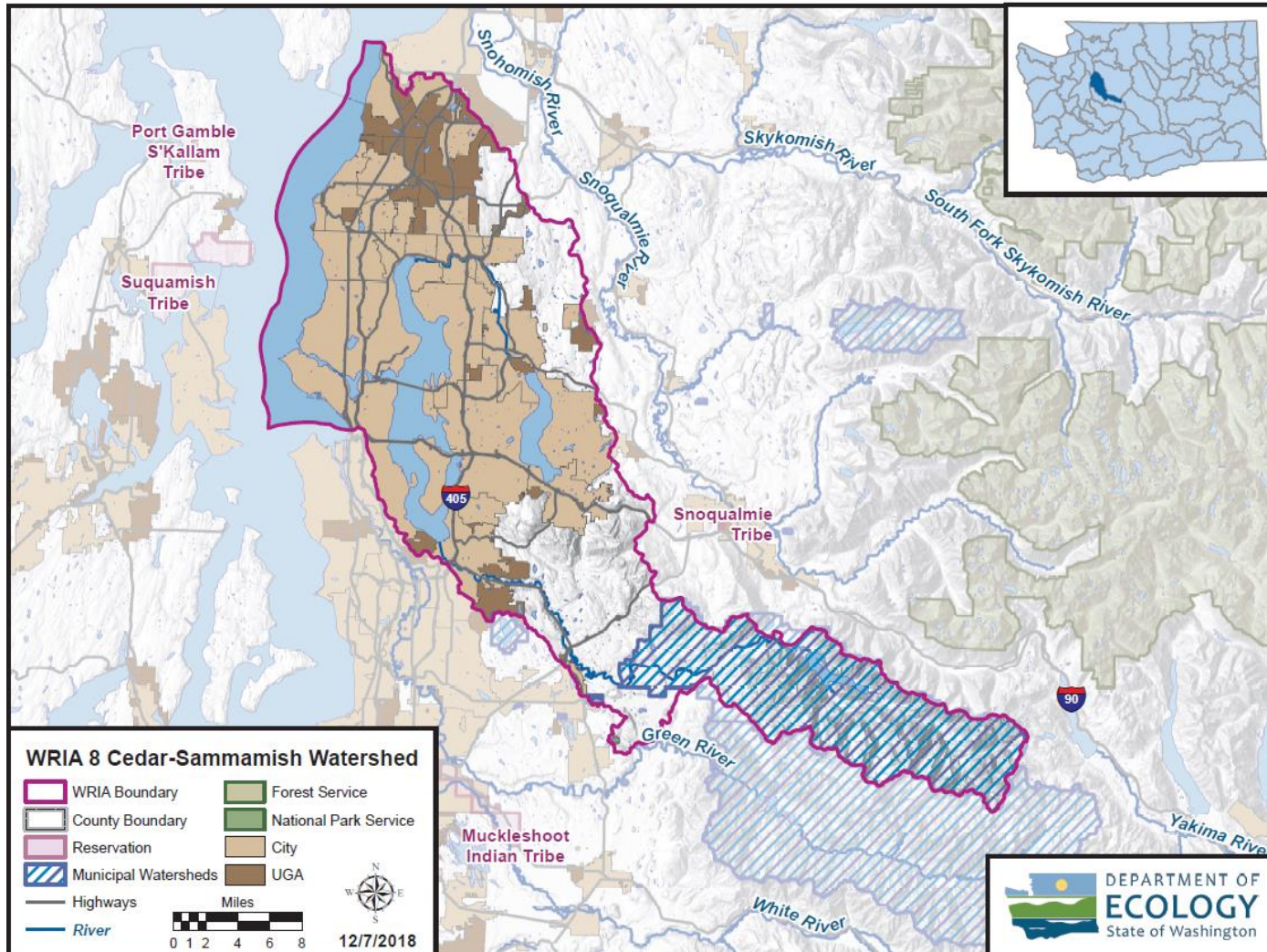
The Cedar-Sammamish Watershed Water Resource Management



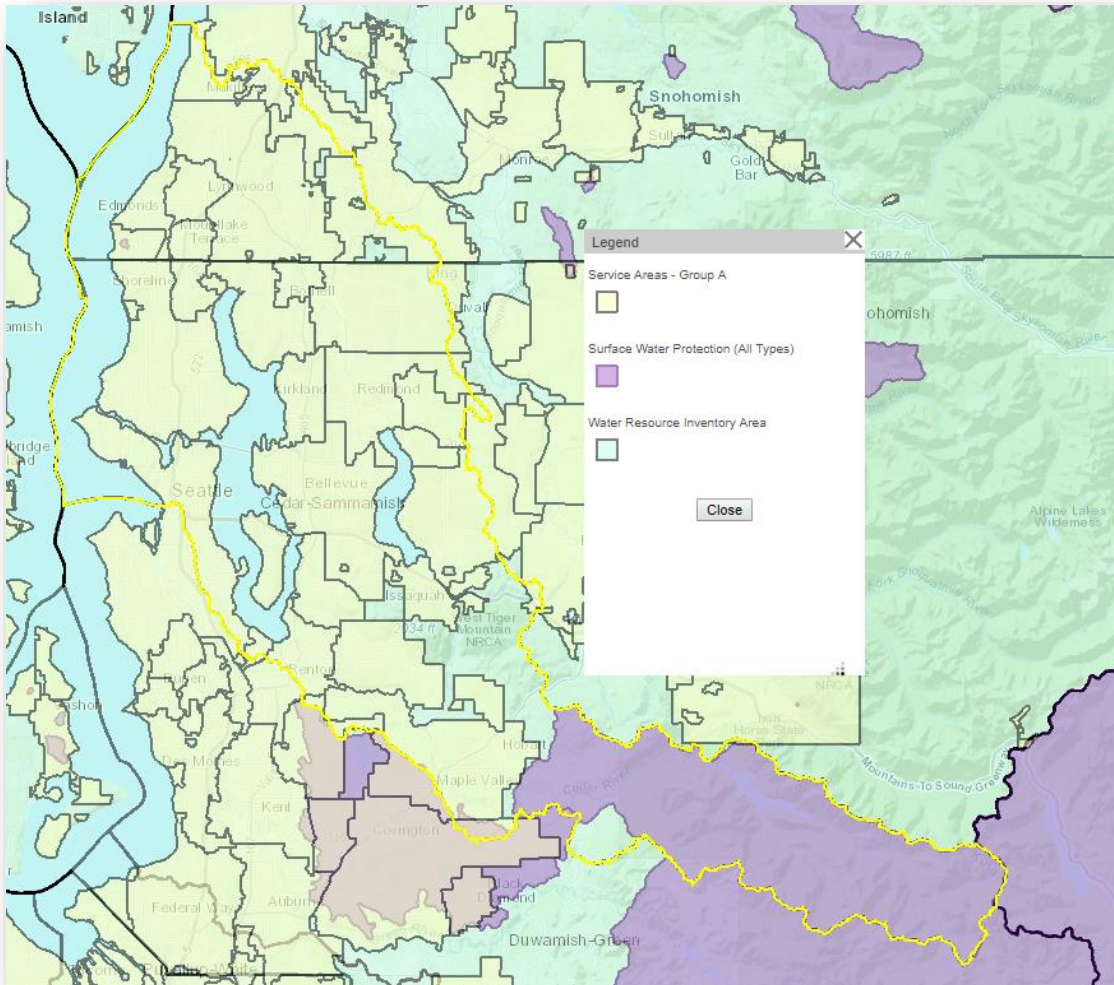
- WAC 173-508, adopted in 1979, is the instream resources protection program rule for the Cedar-Sammamish watershed.
- This rule prohibits new consumptive impacts on all lakes and streams that feed into Lake Washington above the Ballard Locks, excluding the Cedar River. The Cedar River is subject to minimum instream flows.
- There is no water set aside in reserves for future consumptive uses in this watershed.
- Applicants seeking new consumptive water appropriations will need mitigation for the impacts of their water use on surface water bodies.

The Cedar-Sammamish Watershed Urban Growth Areas

Most developed and
populated watershed in
the state.



The Cedar-Sammamish Watershed Water Service Areas



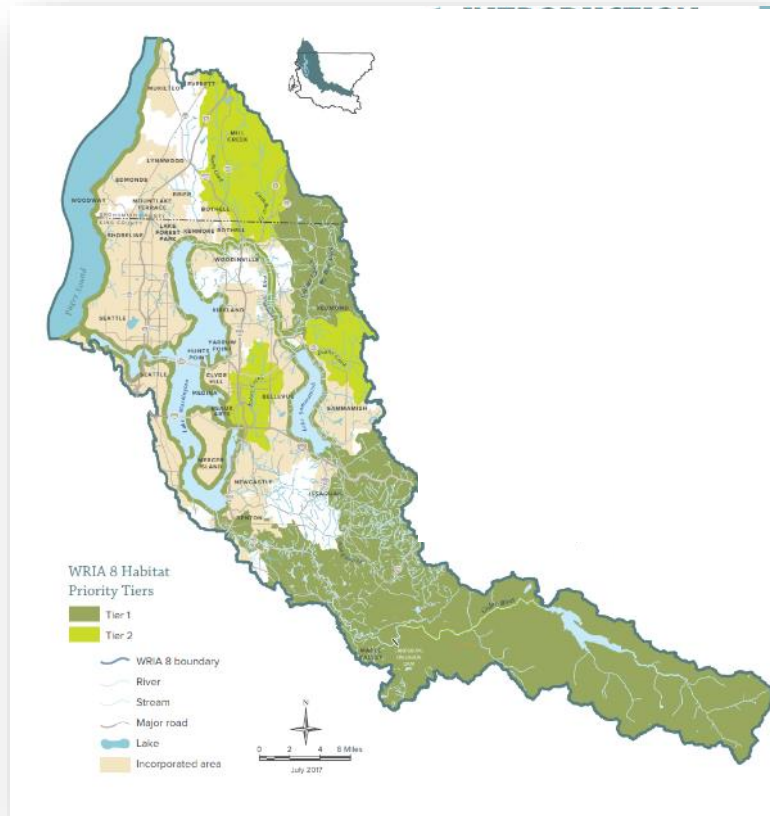
Most of the developable land in WRIA 8 is served by a water system

Yellow: water service area

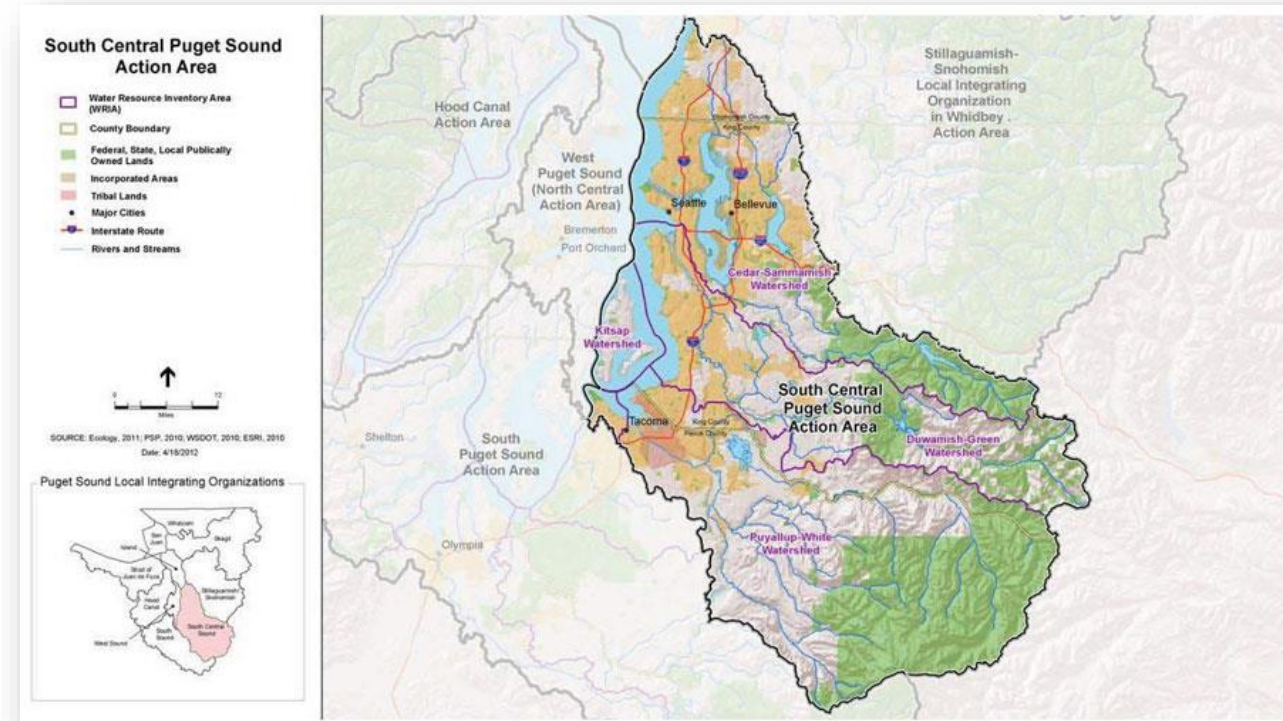
Purple: protected municipal watershed

Partners in WRIA 8

Existing watershed-based organizations/collaborations in WRIA 8 include:



WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council (Salmon Recovery Lead Entity) has mostly the same boundaries, except Elliott Bay is covered by the WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum



South Central Action Area Caucus Group (Local Integrating Organization), covers WRIA 8, 9, and 10

Questions?

Data sources: <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/documents/1111013.pdf>; <http://www.seattle.gov/util/MyServices/Water/WaterSystemOverview/index.htm>
Map sources: <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/coastalatlas/wc/MappingPage.html> (unless otherwise indicated)